

# MY FOURTEEN MONTHS AT THE FRONT

An American Boy's  
Baptism of Fire

By  
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON

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As I said, he started out at 4, and so on as I know he is not back yet. He may have been shot down, he may have had an accident and been forced to land behind the German lines, or any one of a hundred things may have happened. All we know is that he failed to return.

The anti-aircraft gun was practically unknown before the beginning of this war, and there is an enormous chance of improvement in this branch of aerial warfare. It is very interesting to watch an anti-aircraft gun in action, or one can see the gun fired and then the shell burst a few seconds later. So far as I know there is no accurate way of finding the range of an aeroplane in motion. The popular way of shooting at a flying machine seems to be that of firing shells in a large circle, using the machine as the center, and then closing in until the aeroplane is in line. There is the uncertainty, however, of knowing when to time the shell to burst, and, so far as I can see, seems to be pretty much a matter of luck. I heard an average quoted on the number of hits to the number of shells fired, and the figures were one hit out of every 3,000 shells. I cannot judge for the accuracy of this statement, but I do know that the number of hits is surprisingly small.

The falling of the shrapnel from these shells which burst in the air is rather dangerous, as I can show by narrating an incident which happened to us. We were out in a car near a place called Brandhook, and we noticed as we came along that a German aeroplane was coming directly toward us and that it appeared to be following the road. Our anti-aircraft guns were playing on it, and the shells seemed to be bursting mighty close to it. Before it attained a point above us turned at right angles and made off toward the German lines. We continued on our way, and a little farther on we came to where an empty auto was standing in the middle of the road. We stopped and looked around for signs of the occupants, but could find none. When we had been there about five minutes an officer and the driver of the car showed up and said they had been forced to take refuge in a dugout on account of the falling shrapnel.

Holes where pieces of shrapnel had entered the ground were to be seen all around, and we tried to dig some of the pieces up. We dug down ten inches and did not reach them, so we gave it up as a bad job and went on to camp. This will show that these pieces of shrapnel are not to be sneered at as being harmless.

Another favorite stunt with aeroplanes is the dropping of hundreds of steel darts on bodies of moving troops or even on towns or the men in the trenches. These darts are four or five inches in length and have a sort of our pointed tail. They are extremely sharp and are heavier at the point than they are at the tail. This causes them to fall point down.

It has been proved that one of these darts dropped from a great height could, if it struck a man on horseback square on the top of the head, pass through the length of a man's body, through the saddle, through the horse's body and disappear into the ground. I have seen darts that have been dropped, but I have never been where they were falling, and I had no desire to be there.

There was a German who pulled the nearest little game of bluff on us. We were at a village called Rheinfels when this fellow came over, and everybody remarked at how low he was flying. Our anti-aircraft guns were letting him have it from all directions, and suddenly his engine stopped and the machine began to fall. The guns stopped, thinking that he was winged. He fell to within two or three hundred feet of the earth, when suddenly the machine righted itself, and he skimmed over us toward the German lines. He had the audacity to wave his hand at us as he went by.

It was one of the nerviest things I ever saw. He saved himself by the chance of running through our fire, for when he was so low he was out of range of the anti-aircraft guns.

Air raids do not always prove as dangerous as they sound. About three or four days before I left the front we had a flock of twenty-three German aeroplanes over our camp, and they dropped bombs for nearly fifteen minutes. Everybody got under cover, and the total loss of life caused by the raid was one mule. If this were always

the case the Zeppelins and Aviatiks could have to go out of business. There was very little of interest after that. Every day it was the same old routine—up to the firing line in the morning and back down again at night. Once in awhile we would let ourselves in for a young bombardment which would have rather a hot session in

the trenches when we would happen to get there at the right time, but as far as any important happenings there was none.

I will never forget the last day I spent at the front. It seemed to me that the Germans must have put up a job on me, and just at the moment I was sure that I was coming out of it all right and that the war was over for me they were trying to get me.

I was ordered to report with my car to one of our new officers. I did so, and we left for the firing line. When we reached the divisional signal office we left the car and mounted our horses to finish the journey. We got to a place called Krustadt and stayed there about half an hour. I hitched my horse to the gate of an old deserted house and went over to one of our ammunition columns to see if I could get some hot tea. When I came back about fifteen minutes later I found my poor horse down with his front legs gone. A shell had exploded in the yard of this house and had blown his legs clear off. There was nothing for me to do but to shoot him and put the poor beast out of his misery.

I hunted around among the different units in the vicinity until I found another horse, and then I went up and reported to my officer. We visited some of our batteries and came back to Krustadt. The officer told me that he would not need me during the afternoon, but to meet him at 5 o'clock that evening. We hitched our horses to a tree, and the officer went off. Very soon after he had gone some more officers came along and hitched their horses to the same tree. Altogether there were six tied to the one tree.

I went over to the Royal Engineers' place and proceeded to make myself at home. I was feeling happy, for I knew that this was my last day at the front and I was hoping to be home for Christmas. Of course I told everybody I met all about my good luck, and we were having a regular little farewell dinner, only we had tea instead of champagne. After it was all over some of the boys went away, and I proceeded to make myself comfortable on a couch the fellows had built up in the corner.

I had been there about fifteen minutes when for some reason or other I got up and went over and sat down by the brazier. I hadn't been off that couch three minutes when a shrapnel shell burst directly over the hut, and I should say fully twenty pieces came through the roof. They went through

the floor as if it had been so much paper, and about half a dozen pieces penetrated the couch I had been lying on not five minutes before. There were three of us in the hut at the time, and not one of us was so much as scratched. The shells were coming over pretty thick then, so we went for the dugouts on the dead run. As I passed the tree where our horses were tethered a high explosive shell burst in the middle of them and buttered them all over the landscape.

Believe me, I didn't pause one second. I just kept on going. I entered a dugout that had about a foot and a half of water in it, but I lay right down in it and was only too glad to stay there. The Germans were keeping up a sweeping fire, trying to locate our batteries, and they continued until nearly 7 o'clock that evening.

When 8 o'clock came and I was supposed to meet my officers I stayed right where I was, for I knew that I would not be expected to go out and wait by that tree when the shells were falling the way they were then. At 7 o'clock the fire had pretty nearly ceased, so I ambled out to the tree to see what had become of the officer. He was sitting on the ground with his back against the tree. I told him what had happened, and he asked me if I knew where we could find some more horses.

I said I did and that it was right on our way back, so we walked about a half mile until we came to the transport camp, and there we got two other horses and proceeded to the place where we had left the car.

Here the officer decided we would have some tea, so I went into a tent where there were some fellows I knew and begged some grub. I had just commenced to eat when a shell screamed over and went into the ground about twenty or thirty feet from the corner of the tent. It didn't explode, so we were all right, but I decided that right here was where I quit, and I went out and sat in the car until the officer was ready.

But my troubles were not over yet. On the way back to camp one of the back wheels came off the car and nearly dumped us into the ditch. The officer got a lift down in another car, and I set to work to try to put back the wheel. It was dark, and the road was muddy and soft, and everything seemed to go wrong. The train left at 1 o'clock in the morning, and I was nearly beside myself for fear I would miss it.

When I finally did get in it was after 11, and I had to do some tall hustling to get my things packed, get my grant and tickets and change my clothes for dry ones and walk half a mile to the station to catch the train. I did it, though, and at 4 o'clock in the afternoon I was in London.

THE END.

**DR. ALFRED W. DULA**  
EYE SPECIALIST  
TO SEE BETTER  
SEE DULA  
17 Year's Experience  
The Best Equipment Obtainable.  
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## Swift & Company Publicity

At a recent hearing of the Federal Trade Commission there was introduced correspondence taken from the private files of Swift & Company, which showed that the Company had been considering for some time an educational advertising campaign.

The need for this publicity has been apparent to us for several years. The gross misrepresentation to which we have recently been subjected has convinced us that we should no longer delay in putting before the public the basic facts of our business, relying on the fair-mindedness of the American people.

The feeling against the American packer is based largely on the belief that the income and well-being of the producer and consumer are adversely affected by the packers' operations, resulting in unreasonably large profits.

Swift & Company's net profit is reasonable, and represents an insignificant factor in the cost of living.

For the fiscal year 1917 the total sales and net profit of Swift & Company were as follows:

Sales  
**\$875,000,000.**  
Profits  
**\$34,650,000.**

This is equivalent to a \$3.465. profit on a business of \$87,500.



If Swift & Company had made no profit at all, the cattle raiser would have received only one-eighth of a cent per pound more for his cattle, or the consumer would have saved only one-quarter of a cent per pound on dressed beef.

Swift & Company, U. S. A.

### A SITCH IN TIME.

People Should Not Neglect Their Kidneys.

No kidney ailment is unimportant. Don't overlook the slightest backache or urinary irregularity. Nature may be warning you of an approaching dropsy, gravel or Bright's disease. Kidney disease is seldom fatal if treated in time, but neglect may pave the way. Don't neglect a lame or itching back another day. Don't ignore dizzy spells, irregular or discolored urine, headaches, weariness or depression. If you feel you need kidney help begin to use the reliable, time-tried remedy, Doan's Kidney Pills. For 50 years, Doan's have been found effective. Endorsed by grateful people.

Loon Munday, carpenter, N. Main St., Lenoir, N. C., says: My kidneys were disordered and I suffered from pains in my back. It was hard for me to stoop or bend my body. When a friend recommended Doan's Kidney Pills I used some. One box removed the pains and fixed me in good shape.

Price 60c. at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the one that Mr. Munday has publicly recommended. Foster-McMillan Co., Props., Buffalo, New York.

### Notice of Service by Publication.

North Carolina, Watauga county. In the superior court. Ardella Carroll and husband B. F. Carroll; Dora Wilcox and husband Vance Wilcox; Minnie Miller and husband B. F. Miller, Vs. Fred Parsons, Wade Parsons, Mrs. Lloyd Parsons, minors; Lloyd Parsons, Clifford Parsons, and wife Sadie Parsons, Maeloria Phillips and husband H. H. Phillips.

The defendants above named will take notice that a summons in the above entitled action was issued against said defendants on the 20th day of Feb. 1918 by the Clerk of the Superior Court for Watauga county. State of North Carolina, in the above entitled action for the partition of land, which summons is returnable before the clerk of the superior court of said county, at his office on the 22nd day of March 1918. The defendants will also take notice that a petition has been filed by the plaintiffs for the partition of the lands described in the petition in which both the plaintiffs and defendants are tenants in common at which time the defendants are required to appear and answer or demur to said petition or the relief demanded will be granted. This Feb. 25, 1918.

W. D. FARTHING, C. S. C.  
LOVILL & BROWN, Att'ys.

## Life Was a Misery

Mrs. F. M. Jones, of Palmer, Okla., writes: "From the time I entered into womanhood . . . I looked with dread from one month to the next. I suffered with my back and bearing-down pain, until life to me was a misery. I would think I could not endure the pain any longer, and I gradually got worse. . . Nothing seemed to help me until, one day, . . . I decided to

### TAKE

# CARDUI

The Woman's Tonic

"I took four bottles," Mrs. Jones goes on to say, "and was not only greatly relieved, but can truthfully say that I have not a pain."

"It has now been two years since I took Cardui, and I am still in good health. . . I would advise any woman or girl to use Cardui who is a sufferer from any female trouble."

If you suffer pain caused from womanly trouble, or if you feel the need of a good strengthening tonic to build up your run-down system, take the advice of Mrs. Jones. Try Cardui. It helped her. We believe it will help you.

All Druggists

# CASTORIA

For Infants and Children  
In Use For Over 30 Years

Always bears the Signature of J. C. Watson

## Virginia-Carolina Railway Company

TIME TABLE NO. 58

In Effect 12:01 A. M., Monday, Sept. 11, 1918

For Government of Employees Only.

SOUTHERN Daily Except Sunday	Miles from Abingdon and Station No.	STATIONS Eastern Standard Time	Length of slide in feet in clear	Number of cars will hold	Telephone signal (Dot means short ring, dash means long ring)	NORTHBOUND Daily Except Sunday
1st Class						1st Class
No. 1 A.M.						No. 1 P.M.
7:30	0.5	Lv. Abingdon (W.C.).....Ar.	1138	35	.....	5:15
7:32	4	Lv. Yard.....Ar.	460	9	.....	5:04
7:45	9	Lv. Watauga.....Ar.	460	9	.....	4:44
8:00	12	Lv. Barron.....Ar.	125	2	.....	4:30
8:15	13	Lv. Cedarville (W).....Ar.	140	2	.....	4:15
8:30	14	Lv. Downing Ford.....Ar.	140	2	.....	4:00
8:45	15	Lv. Vails Mill.....Ar.	140	2	.....	3:45
9:00	16	Lv. Damascus (W) (T).....Ar.	320	15	.....	4:15
9:15	18	Lv. Laureldale (G.C.).....Ar.	400	10	.....	4:15
9:30	23	Lv. Taylor's Valley (W).....Ar.	600	15	.....	3:45
9:45	27	Ar. Creek Junction.....Lv.	875	9	.....	3:45
10:00	31	Lv. Callahan Crossing (G.C.).....Lv.	350	9	.....	3:00
10:15	34	Lv. Green Cove (W).....Lv.	350	9	.....	3:00
10:30	40	Lv. White Top Gap (W.T.).....Lv.	350	9	.....	3:00
10:45	44	Lv. Nella.....Lv.	200	5	.....	3:00
10:57	46	Lv. Tuckerdale (W).....Lv.	480	12	.....	3:15
11:00	48	Lv. Lansing.....Lv.	280	7	.....	3:15
11:03	48	Lv. Berlin.....Lv.	195	5	.....	3:04
11:06	50	Lv. Warrenville.....Lv.	390	8	.....	1:50
11:09	53	Lv. Smithport.....Lv.	451	11	.....	1:40
11:14	56	Ar. West Jefferson (WCY).....Lv.	800	20	.....	1:40
11:05	56	Lv. West Jefferson (WCY).....Ar.	800	20	.....	1:30
11:10	58	Lv. Hamilton, N. C. ....Ar.	160	4	.....	1:14
11:24	61	Lv. Donaton.....Ar.	360	9	.....	1:00
11:39	65	Lv. Bowie (W).....Ar.	320	8	.....	1:00
11:54	71	Lv. Riverside.....Ar.	320	8	.....	12:40
12:05	76	Ar. Eikhland, N. C. (WCT).....Lv.	1310	30	.....	12:30

Daily Except Sunday	First Class No. 5 No. 8	STATIONS	Length of slide in feet in clear	Number of cars will hold	Telephone signal (Dot means short ring, dash means long ring)	Daily Except Sunday
P.M.	A.M.					P.M.
8:15	8:55	Lv. Creek Junction.....Ar.	275	9	.....	9:25
8:30	9:10	Lv. Grassy Ridge (:).....Ar.	30	..	.....	9:11
P.M.	A.M.	Ar. Kannarock (WYO).....Lv.	30	..	.....	9:11

\*-Stop on Signal. s-Regular Stop. G. C.-Grade Crossing. W.-Water. C.-Coal. O.-Scales. T.-Turntable. Y.-Wye. (:) Jot. W. T. Ry.

### NOTICE.

North Carolina, Watauga county. In the Superior court. C. C. Ragan vs. Pearl Ragan.  
The defendant above named will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the superior court of Watauga county to dissolve the bonds of matrimony; and the defendant will further take notice that she is required to appear at the term of the superior court of said county to be held on the third Monday after the first Monday in March 1918, at the court house in said county in Boone, North Carolina and answer or demur to the complaint in said action or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint. This the 25th day of February 1918.

W. D. FARTHING, C. S. C.

**FOLEY'S CATHARTIC**  
For Bowel Trouble and Constipation

### NOTICE.

North Carolina, Watauga county. In the Superior Court, spring term 1918. Frank L. Henson vs. Belle Henson.

The defendant above named will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the superior court of Watauga county by the plaintiff against the defendant for divorce from the bonds of matrimony; and the said defendant will further take notice that she is required to appear at the next term of the Watauga Superior Court to be held on the 3rd Monday after the first Monday in March 1918 at the court house in said county, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action or the relief therein asked will be granted. This Jan. 29, 1918.

W. D. FARTHING, C. S. C.

### NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION.

North Carolina, Watauga county. In the Superior court. Ardella Carroll and husband B. F. Carroll; Dora Wilcox and husband Vance Wilcox; Minnie Miller and husband B. F. Miller; M. E. Houck and husband F. L. Houck; J. M. McGuire; Laura Davis and husband E. S. Davis Vs. Fred Parsons, Wade Parsons, Mrs. Lloyd Parsons, Clifford Parsons, and wife Sadie Parsons; Maeloria Phillips and husband H. H. Phillips.

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W. D. FARTHING, C. S. C.

Lovill & Brown, Attorneys.

## Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA